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June 30, 1992

WASHINGTON'S CHIEF SPY IN BUDAPEST

THIS WINTER IT WILL HAVE BEEN 45 YEARS SINCE A YOUNG DIPLOMAT AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST RECEIVED A CODED MESSAGE: INCONSPICUOUSLY, BUT WITHIN FOUR DAYS, LEAVE THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL. JAMES MCCARGAR FOLLOMED THE ORDERS, BECAUSE FROM HIS POSITION HE COULD SEE MOST CLEARLY THAT THE COMPLETE TAKING OF POWER BY THE SOVIET AND COMMUNISTS WAS AT HAND--AN EVENT WHICE WOULD END HIS ACTIVITIES HERE.

IT SEEMS THAT THE YOUNG HISTORIAN DIRECTED INFORMATION GATHERING IN HUNGARY. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IN PLACE OF A DEMOCRATIC HUNGARY A SATELLITE STATE OF THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE CREATED, HIS PRIORITY SUDDENLY WAS TO SNEAK OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY ASSIST THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES—BIFORE THE PARTIES WERE MADE TO DISAPPEAR IN THE GULAG OR THE COUNTRY'S JAILS.

AFTER FIFTY YEARS MCCARGAR SPOKE WITH AN MII CORRESPONDENT ON HOW (AFTER WORKING IN MOSCOW AND VLADIVOSTOR) HE CAME TO BUDAPEST AND BUILT AN INFORMATION GATHERING NETWORK. JAMES MCCARGAR IS A UNIQUE WITNESS TO AN AGE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE KNEW PEREINC NAGY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SMALLHOLDER'S PARTY WHO WAS FORCED TO EMIGRATE, AS AN EXCEPTIONAL MAN OF VISION: HE REMEMBERS HIM AS A MAN WHO COULD HAVE INFLUENCED THE FATE OF CENTRAL EUROPE.

MEMBERS OF THE SPY NETWORK (MANY ARE STILL ALIVE) EVEN NOW INSIST ON USING PSEUDONYMS: "SIMON" FOR EXAMPLE WAS ON THE STAFF OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK (MNB). HE GATHERED STATISTICS ON HOW THE SOVIETS WERE STRANGLING THE COUNTRY. "GUY" WAS A SENIOR CLERK WITH THE POLICE. "PAUL" WAS A POLITICIAN FOR THE SMALLHOLDER'S PARTY—A ONE-TIME OPPOSITION MEMBER—HE HANDED OVER THE BOOK OF MINUTES OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS. "GEORGE" WAS AN ACCREDITED DIPLOMAT, AND "HENRY" WAS A ONE-TIME MEMBER OF THE UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

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MCCARGAR WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS. "THEY DIDN'T WORK FOR ME THE WORKED WITH ME," HE STRESSED. FURTHER, HE CLAIMS THAT SOME OF "HIS" SPIES DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXACTLY WHAT ORGANIZATION HANDLED THEIR INFORMATION. THEY ONLY KNEW THAT THERE WAS A CONNECTION WITH THE AMERICANS—THE ONE FOWER THAT COULD SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM THE RUSSIANS AND ENSLAVERS. AND THAT IS WHAT THE WELL TRAINED, GOOD LOOKING AMERICAN TRIED TO DO AS WELL. HIS SUPERIORS IN WASHINGTON ALSO HOPED THAT HIS COMMAND OF RUSSIAN WOULD HELP IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SAVE HUNGARY.

MCCARGAR LEARNED FROM HIS SOVIET "COLLEAGUE" THE EYE-OPENING NEWS THAT, THE YALTA AND MOSCOW AGREEMENTS NOT WITHSTANDING, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE SOVIETS TOOK OVER CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. BESIDES HIS EVER MORE FREQUENT INFORMATION GATHERING ACTIVITIES, HE INCREASINGLY TRAVELED—ON HIS OWN ROUTES—IN THE EMBASSY'S VEHICLE.

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS HE WOULD GO TO HARMASHATAR MOUNTAIN AND-IN SECRET-PICK UP PASSENGERS. HIS PASSENGERS WOULD HIDE IN A CONCRALED SPACE. THE CAR WOULD TAKE LONG, COMPLICATED RIDES-SOMETIMES TO THE GREAT PLAINS, SOMETIMES THROUGH SLOVAKIA TO AUSTRIA. AND IN AUSTRIA THEY WOULD GET THROUGH THE SOVIET SECTOR TO THE AMERICANS.

THERE THE HUNGARIAN COALITION POLITICIANS WOULD EMERGE FROM THEIR HIDING SPACE. MANY INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES OWE THEIR LIVES TO THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR THEIR SAFETY.

REMEMBER THAT THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO WELL KNOWN EXPERIENCE, WERE NOT PARTICULAR AS TO WHOM THEY WOULD DETAIN--INCLUDING ONE OF THEIR ONE-TIME ALLIES.

MCCARGER REMEMBERS MATYAS RAKOSI, THE UGLY FUTURE DICTATOR AND HIS DEVILISH RIGHT HAND MAN, ERNO GERO. HE ALSO KNEW KEY FIGURES OF THE SUDAPEST POLITICAL STAGE: AMBASSADOR FUSKIN, THE PAVORITE OF MARSHALL VOROSILOV. AND HE ALSO KNEW THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE AREA: THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NKVD.

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HE ALSO REMEMBERS THE BIZARRE CASE WHEN THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ZOLVAN TILDY SENT A LETTER WITH VIKTOR CSORNORY (WHO WAS LATER EXECUTED): EAVE THE AMERICANS ARRANGE CSORNORY'S ESCAPE. MCCARGAR AND HIS METWORK SET DOWN TO WORK BUT CSORNORY INSISTED THAT SOME 14 MEMBERS OF THE TILDY FAMILY SHOULD BE EVACUATED, WHICH WAS NUCH MORE THAN LOGISTICALLY POSSIBLE. WHAT IS MORE, THE AMERICAN TIME MAGAZINE--ANYTHING FOR A HEADLINE--THANKS TO THE GOSSIPY CSORNORY, PUBLISHED THE ESCAPE PLAN, WHICH OF COURSE HAD TO BE ABORTED.

THE DIPLOMAT CUM INFORMATION GATHERER LATER DIRECTED A SECRET ACTION TO PREE ALBANIA.

MCCARGAR WORKED AT RADIO FREE EUROPE, AT UNESCO, AND NOW POR SOME TIME HAS BEEN LIVING A QUIET, RELAXED LIFE OF A PART TIME WRITER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

JAMES MCCARGAR, WHO WITH HIS HEART AND BOUL SUPPORTED HUNGARIAN AFFAIRS, HAD TO EXPERIENCE IN 1947 THAT HE, IN VAIN, HAD URGED WASHINGTON TO ASSIST THE PAST SINKING HUNGARIAN DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT.

HIS HISTORICAL ROLE IN HUNGARY-DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC REASONS-HAS REALLY NEVER BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED. WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE FORTUNATE THAT RECENTLY ARPAD GONCZ SIGNED A DECISION THAT JAMES MCCARGAR RECEIVE THE REPUBLIC'S OFFICERS' CROSS OF HONOR.

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Az út végén kipújta). "ádákból a koalíciós idők politikusai. " čgy modern Pimpernel

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1992 június 30., kead